Dear Mr. Scudder:—

The conviction has come to me, very strongly, that the paper which I am now sending you on Pre-Existence, ought to be no XII of the New Book. I think so because it is the ultimate result of my Oriental experiences,—as to the study of Buddhism &c.,— because I believe that it contains some original conclusions (at least I worked out the problem unassisted),— and because it would "round off" the book

61000—Good—3 □37—1715

in a way that will attract, I hope, some attention. Before completing it, the book seemed to me to want something.

In case that there be already too much matter, I would suggest that the essay could be advantageously substituted either for "The Conservative" (which is the weakest of the chapters) or for the ballads.

But as Messrs. H. & Co. in a recent letter to me, hinted that a book somewhat larger rather than smaller that "Out of the East" would be to their taking, I hope

that all can be used.

I hope this letter will not reach you too late. In case the book be already accepted, the addition might still perhaps be made, if you think as I do, that it would add value to the volume.

Ever faithfully
Lafcadio Hearn

Sept. 15/95